

Special Interest Articles:

- Passport amendments are no longer available.
- ACS Section will provide monthly service visits to Taybeh.
- Children's citizenship: a guide to changes in the law Part 2.
- 2005 Tax Season.

Passport Amendments End

Beginning October 26, 2005, in accordance with a worldwide change in passport processing, Consulate General Jerusalem stopped amending U.S. passports. U.S. citizens requesting a name change, an extension of validity for a limited passport, or the correction of a printing error must now apply for **replacement passports**, rather than an amendment to their current passport. The details of this change:

1. Passports Issued within the Past Year

If you are requesting changes to a passport issued within the preceding year, you must submit the following:

- a **U.S. Passport Re-Application Form (DS 5504)**;
- the passport that needs to be changed;
- documentation proving your name change, if that is the change you are requesting, and
- new passport photos.

Fee: there will be no fee charged for processing changes to these passports.

2. Passports More than One Year Old

If you are requesting changes to a passport that was issued more than one year ago, you must submit-

- an **Application for Passport By Mail (DS-82)**,
- the passport that needs to be changed,
- documentation proving your name change, if that is the change you are requesting, and
- new passport photos.

Fee: for such changes, you must pay an application fee of \$55 and a \$12 security surcharge, for a total of \$67. No fee will be charged if the reason for the change is a printing error by Passport Services.

Name changes: to establish a name change, you must provide one of the following: a marriage certificate, a court order, or a name change certificate issued by a government department or ministry

Adding Visa Pages

To add visa pages to your passport, please submit an **Application for Additional Visa Pages (DS-4085)**. No fee is charged for this service.

All of these forms can be found online at <http://travel.state.gov>. **DS-19, the Passport Amendment/Validation Form**, previously used for passport amendments, is no longer valid and will not be accepted.

As always, please contact us by e-mail at jerusalemacs@state.gov, by phone at 02-628-7137 or 02-622-7219, or by fax at 02-627-2233 if you need further information on these changes



"ACS is pleased to be able to provide this service to American citizens in the West Bank."



ACS Appointments in Taybeh

Beginning in August, ACS Jerusalem began offering services to West Bank American citizens, on a monthly basis, at a location in Taybeh.

At Taybeh, we provide all the routine services currently provided at the consulate in Jerusalem. We accept:

- applications for adult and minor passports,
- applications for passport renewals,
- applications for passport amendments, and
- applications to register the birth of a child abroad.

We also provide notarial services, and consult with American citizens who own property in the West Bank on land confiscation disputes.

Please note: **All services in Taybeh are provided by appointment only.**

To make an appointment, please do one of the following –

-Call American Citizen Services at 02 628-7137, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon to speak directly to our receptionist.

-At other times, call 02 622-7219, and leave a message. Please give us your name, your phone number, and specify that you are calling about an appointment in Taybeh.

-Send a fax to 02 627-2233. In your fax give us your name, phone number, and specify your interest in an appointment in Taybeh.

-Send an e-mail to acsappointments@state.gov. In your e-mail message please specify your interest in an appointment in Taybeh.

When we confirm the appointment we will provide you with further information about the time and place for the appointment, and with a checklist of the items you need to provide.

ACS is pleased to be able to provide this service to American citizens in the West Bank. We also provide services at AACI in West Jerusalem monthly.

Child Naturalization via Grandparents

In our previous issue of the newsletter, we discussed one option for naturalizing your child. Now we consider a second option.

If you and your child are residing outside of the United States, the child may be eligible for Expedited Naturalization if your parent, the Child's U.S. Citizen Grandparent, was physically present in the United States for a period totaling 5 years, 2 after the age of 14. The grandparent can be living or deceased at the time of the application. If deceased, the grandparent must have been a citizen prior to the child's birth and at the time of the grandparent's death.

Step 1: Application

- Complete and File BCIS Forms N-600 (Application for Certificate of Citizenship) and N-600/N-643 (Supplement A – Application for Transmission of citizenship through a grandparent).
- Send Form N-600, N-600/N-643 Supplement A, supporting documents, and the required fee to one of the 51 BCIS Field Offices in the United States (<http://uscis.gov/graphics/fieldoffices/alphaa.htm>).

Step 2: Wait

BCIS will determine whether your child is eligible and approve the application, then forward you a letter and Naturalization Appointment date.

Step 3: Apply for a Non-Immigrant Visa

After you receive your appointment letter, you should apply for a Non-Immigrant Visa for your child. For information on applying for a Non-Immigrant Visa please visit the US Consulate General's website at: http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/jerusalem/how_to_apply.html or the US Embassy's website at: <http://telaviv.usembassy.gov/publish/noniv.htm>. Note: you will need to present the BCIS Approval and Appointment letter to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate General. The U.S. Embassy or Consulate General will issue your child a B-2 visa. This procedure allows parents to make a one-stop visit to the United States for the purposes of naturalizing their child as an U.S. citizen.

Step 4: Appointment

After you receive a Non-Immigrant Visa for your child, you should make travel arrangements for your appointment with BCIS. At the appointment, the child must take the same oath of allegiance administered to adult naturalization applicants. If the child is too young to understand the oath, USCIS may waive the oath requirement.

After the hearing, you may apply for a U.S. Passport for your child. Please see www.travel.state.gov for information on applying for a passport. You may apply for a passport in Tel Aviv and/or Jerusalem or before you depart the United States.

Note: For the naturalization benefit to be granted, the application must be filed, adjudicated and approved by BCIS, with the Oath of Allegiance administered before the child's 18th birthday.



"If you and your child are residing outside of the United States, the child may be eligible for Expedited Naturalization if your parent, the Child's U.S. Citizen Grandparent, was physically present in the United States for a period totaling 5 years, 2 after the age of 14."

AVIAN INFLUENZA FACT SHEET

This Fact Sheet alerts Americans to the Department of State's preparedness efforts with respect to a possible avian influenza pandemic. The Department of State emphasizes that, in the event of a pandemic, its ability to assist Americans traveling and residing abroad may be severely limited due to restrictions on local and international movement imposed for public health reasons. Furthermore, American citizens should take note that the Department of State cannot provide Americans traveling or living abroad with medications, including in the event of a pandemic.

"Concerns about the possibility of an avian influenza pandemic have prompted international and national efforts to institute pandemic preparedness measures. "

Background – H5N1 Avian Influenza

A number of countries in Asia and Europe have reported cases of avian influenza, commonly referred to as "bird flu" in their domestic and wild bird populations. The H5N1 strain of influenza causes severe disease in domesticated fowl. In addition, there are confirmed cases of bird-to-human transmissions of avian influenza in the South East Asia region, many of which have resulted in death. Please visit the World Health Organization (WHO) website, http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/en/ for the most up to date information on the countries affected and the number of deaths.

The vast majority of the known human cases have resulted from direct contact with poultry, and there is only limited evidence to suggest possible human-to-human transmission. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the WHO, and the Department of State are nonetheless concerned about the potential for human-to-human transmission of this highly dangerous flu strain, and are working closely with other partners in an effort to monitor the outbreak.

Concerns about the possibility of an avian influenza pandemic have prompted international and national efforts to institute pandemic preparedness measures. Information on the U.S. Government's overall response and efforts is available at www.pandemicflu.gov.

Travel and Avian Influenza

The Department of State, the CDC and the WHO have not issued any travel alerts or warnings for avian flu-infected areas. However, the CDC advises travelers to countries with documented H5N1 outbreaks to avoid poultry farms, contact with animals in live food markets, and any surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces or fluids from poultry or other animals. American citizens traveling to or living in countries where avian influenza is prevalent should consider the potential risks and keep informed of the latest medical guidance and information in order to make appropriate plans. Specific CDC travel information relating to avian influenza, including preventive measures, is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>. WHO guidance related to avian influenza is available at http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/.

"the CDC advises travelers to countries with documented H5N1 outbreaks to avoid poultry farms, contact with animals in live food markets, and any surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces or fluids from poultry or other animals."

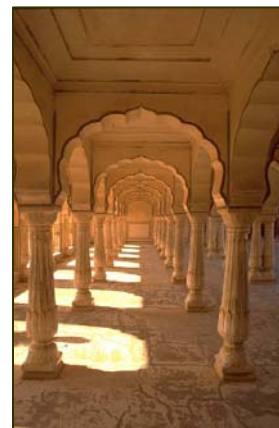
GAZA TRANSFER

Effective December 1, 2005, the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem will be responsible for all consular matters affecting U.S. citizens or visa applicants from the Gaza Strip. American citizens and visa applicants in Gaza, who formerly would obtain consular services from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, will now receive those services from the Consular Section of the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem.

All applications from American citizens in Gaza for U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, notarial, or other consular services must be arranged through the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem. Appointments for both immigrant and non-immigrant visas that are made after December 1 will be scheduled at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem. Non-immigrant visa appointments previously made and immigrant visa applications already in process in Tel Aviv will be completed at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Although the Consulate General in Jerusalem makes every possible effort to serve American citizens in its district, the ability of consular staff to offer timely assistance to American citizens in need in Gaza is considerably reduced due to current limitations on travel by U.S. Government employees to Gaza made necessary by security conditions.

U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem's consular district includes West and East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the Allenby Bridge border crossing connecting Jordan with the West Bank.



Travel Warning and Warden Messages

We would like to take this opportunity to remind American citizens of the February 27, 2006, travel warning for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza available at <http://travel.state.gov> and at the Consulate General in Jerusalem's web page at http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/jerusalem/citizen_services.html. The Department of State continues to urge U.S. citizens to carefully consider the risks of travel to Israel, to defer unnecessary travel to the West Bank, and to avoid all travel to Gaza. American citizens who chose to remain in these areas despite the warning should maintain a low profile, vary their daily schedules

and routines, avoid public gatherings and crowded places, and remain alert for people and objects that appear suspicious or out of place.

As the U.S. Government develops information on any potential security threats to U.S. citizens overseas, it shares credible threat information through its consular information program documents, available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.

Warden messages for the Jerusalem consular district are available 24 hours a day on our website, <http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>.

"The Department of State continues to urge U.S. citizens to defer unnecessary travel to the West Bank...."

"...avoid all travel to Gaza."

**US Consulate
General Jerusalem**

27 Nablus Road
P. O. Box 290
91002 Jerusalem

PHONE:
628-7137

Receptionist, 8:00 a.m. –
12:00 noon, Monday – Friday

622-7219
Message Line

FAX:
627-2233

E-MAIL:
jerusalemacs@state.gov

We're on the
Web!

See us at:

**[http://jerusalem.
usconsulate.gov](http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov)**

Are You Ready? 2005 Tax Season is Here

General Requirements

If you are a U.S. citizen, the rules for filing income, estate, and gift tax returns and paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are in the United States or abroad. U.S. income tax returns for 2005 are due on April 17, 2006. If you reside overseas, your return is due on June 15, 2006 because you are given an automatic two-month extension to file your return. Note that any tax that you owe must be paid by April 17, 2006 to avoid being charged penalties and interest.

Tax forms and publications

We no longer keep a supply of tax forms at the Consulate. Tax forms and publications are available by the following means:

Internet: www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html

Phone: +1 (800) 829-3676

Professional assistance

Our website includes a list of U.S. tax preparers who have offices in either Jerusalem or the West Bank. If you don't have Internet access, come by the consulate or call us, and we will be happy to provide you with a copy of the list.

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